

From: [Mendez, Thomas](#)
To: [Borries, Samuel](#); [El-Zein, Jason](#); [Brown, Jaime](#); [Ribordy, Michael](#); [Mankowski, Matthew](#); [Augustyn, James](#); [Kelley, Jeff](#); [Bassler, Rachel](#); [Deamer, Eileen](#); dgreinke@idem.IN.gov
Cc: [Eoc, Epahq](#); [Behnke, Kristina](#); [Beslow, Mike](#); [Maguire, Andrew](#); [Thomas, Craig](#); [Lippert, Jeffrey](#); [Cashmere, Jason](#); [Goeks, Todd](#); [Johnson, Mark](#); [Karecki, Edward](#); [Rowan, Anne](#); [Reshkin, Karen](#); [Maraldo, Dean](#); [Donnelly, Peggy](#); [Poy, Thomas](#); [Henry, Timothy](#); [Korleski, Christopher](#)
Subject: RE: U.S. Steel Hexavalent Chrome Release, Portage, IN
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2017 7:04:41 PM

Update as of: 4/13/17 at 18:00 CST

Overview: Stakeholders convened for an end of day meeting to discuss the ongoing response at US Steel regarding the release of hexavalent chrome. Stakeholders present included USEPA, US Steel, IDEM, National Park Service and Indiana American Water, Portage Police, Local Councilman and a representatives for the beaches of City of Portage. Sampling continued and completed for a third day on 4/13/17.

- Sampling Data
 - Data has been coming in from earlier sampling events.
 - New EPA sampling data is expected tomorrow afternoon.
 - US Steel sampling data has been shared with stakeholders.
 - EPA is preparing data management resources to bring the data together in a more presentable form.
 - Stakeholders were aware of sampling efforts performed by the City of Chicago and a 2ppb result roughly 3 miles north of Burns Waterway.
- Current Sampling
 - Boat water sampling completed and all points planed were taken.
 - Shoreline and wading level sediment and water samples were completed.
- US Steel is working on plans for a plant restart which would include adding more wastewater to the treatment plant thus increasing discharge. Timelines are not known at this time but EPA, NPS, and IDEM have expressed concerns about doing this prior to reopening beaches and the water intake. **(DO NOT ADD TO PRESS OR PUBLIC RELEASES)**

EPA, State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:

- Indiana American Water
 - Indiana American Water will continue to have their water intake closed and has indicated that it will not be reopened until at least Monday. They have requested sampling to continue and are looking for three consecutive days of non-detect.
- National Park Service
 - National Park Service will continue to have their beaches closed until sampling data can show that no contamination is present. Sampling at their beaches continues.

EPA Region 5 OSC contact: Andy Maguire, 312-758-8672

Thomas Mendez

[Emergency Response Branch](#)

[On Scene Coordinator](#)

[U.S. EPA Region 5](#)

[77 W Jackson Blvd \(SE-5J\)](#)

[Chicago, Illinois 60604](#)

[312-353-8242](#)